

Collaboration & Innovation:

NNLM's Nationwide Online Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon

Aimee Gogan, MLIS, AHIP – Data & Evaluation Coordinator

National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Southeastern Atlantic Region

Background:

There is a growing trend in libraries of engaging their communities with information and open data by holding Wikipedia edit-a-thons. During these events, participants learn about the culture and norms of this widely used online resource through hands-on editing of articles, including improving citations and adding new facts. The purpose of this poster is to report on the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) health-focused online edit-a-thon, which took place on April 17, 2018. The event utilized librarians' research skills to make Wikipedia a better and more evidence-based resource by using National Library of Medicine (NLM) databases to edit content and citations.

Project Objectives:

- Improve the use of NLM resources
- Engage NNLM members
- Utilize librarian research skills
- Make Wikipedia a better evidence-based resource

Lessons Learned:

Only participants who registered on the NNLM dashboard were captured in the dashboard statistics. Fewer people than expected joined the WebEx sessions (1-2 non NNLM staff member per session) and participants were mainly from the library community. The twitter feed showed some user engagement, but the majority was from NNLM staff. The hands-on experience of editing encouraged participants to continue to be involved in editing Wikipedia. Having two hosts at a time in the WebEx room was determined to be helpful, as it facilitated smooth demonstration and narration and also increased participant engagement.

Methods:

First

Formed a cross-regional planning group of NNLM librarians: Karen Coghlan (NER), Aimee Gogan (SEA), Ann Glusker (PNR), Erin Latta (NDCO), Brian Leaf (SCR), Franda Liu (NNCO), Alicia Lillich (MCR), Mary Piorun (NER), Elaina Vitale (MAR)

Second

Talked to the Wikipedia medical community about their needs and chose to focus on rare diseases. Highlighted NLM resources including Genetics Home Reference, MedlinePlus, PubMed, and NIH's Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Center (GARD)



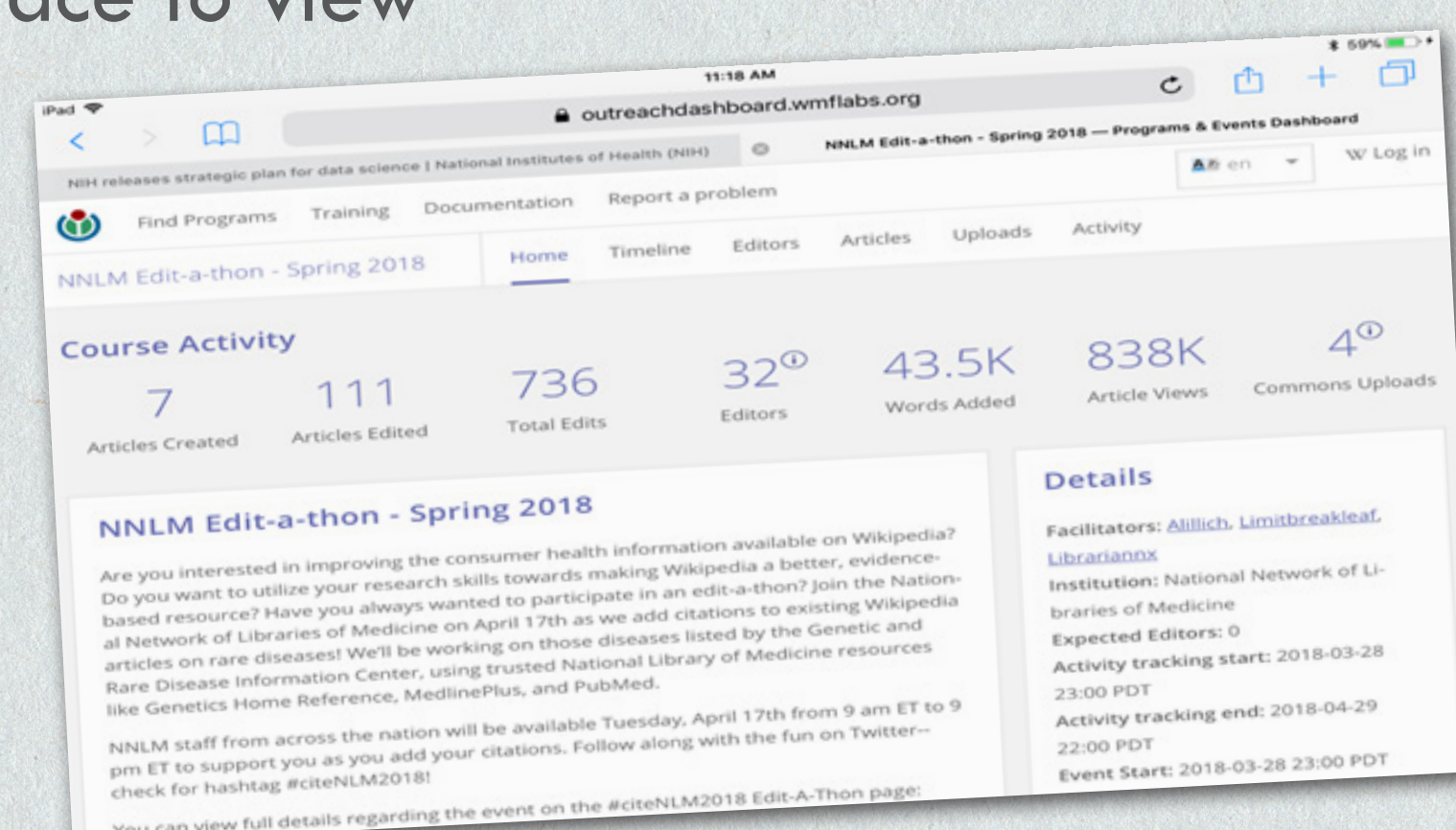
Third

Promoted the Edit-a-thon. Promotion was very important to this event, since so much of NNLM's outreach, including this Edit-a-thon, happens remotely. The coordinators created promotional images, messaging, and decided on the hashtag #citeNLM2018. Existing communication strategies, including newsletters, blog posts, and social media, were utilized.



Fourth

Published a Wikipedia page about the project with training details, event information, additional reading, and project examples. Created a dashboard with live statistics, a timeline, event details, tutorials, and a place to view individual edit histories.



Fifth

Hosted a 1-hour webinar training session with Dr. James Heilman, physician and active WikiProject editor. 67 people attended the training and the recording was viewed 169 times.

Last

Day-of results according to statistics from the NNLM dashboard:

- 32 editors edited articles
- 7 articles were created
- 111 articles were edited
- 736 total edits were made
- 43,500 words were added

Future Plans:

- Are you interested in improving the consumer health information available on Wikipedia? Do you want to utilize your research skills towards making Wikipedia a better, evidence-based resource? Have you always wanted to participate in an edit-a-thon?
- Join the National Network of Libraries of Medicine on November 7th as we add citations to existing Wikipedia articles on women's health!
- Focus on women's health resources including MedlinePlus Women's Health, LactMed, ToxTown Reproductive Health, CDC Women's Health Initiatives, and many more!
- Three training sessions leading up to the Fall Edit-a-thon (all recorded for later viewing)

10/3: Introduction to the NNLM Edit-a-thon & WikiProject Medicine
10/17: Editing Wikipedia Articles
10/31: Women's Health Resources

